

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /065 W

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R 171823Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2193

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

HQ, USSOUTHCOM, SCJ2

USCOMSOLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3484

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, AR, UY

SUBJECT: SPECULATION OVER A "SOUTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION"

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5999 (DTG 151335Z SEP 76) (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. SPECULATION CONCERNING CREATION OF A SOUTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION BEGAN IN URUGUAY LAST MAY WHEN THE PRESS STATED THAT U.S. ADMIRALS ELLIS AND SAGERHOLM (ON AN UNITAS PLANNING TRIP) WERE MEETING WITH ARGENTINE AND BRAZILIAN ADMIRALS IN ARGENTINA. PRESS SPECULATION APPEARED ANEW ON SEPTEMBER 17 WHEN THE NATION'S LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY, EL PAIS, FRONT-PAGED AN EFE STORY FROM BUENOS AIRES ABOUT THE "IMMINENT" CREATION OF A NAVAL ALLIANCE WHICH WILL EMBRACE A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE U.S. URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS HAVE NEVER RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH US BUT A NUMBER OF POLITICIANS HAVE - AND THEY BELIEVE A REGIONAL ACCORD IS BEING ARRANGED. END SUMMARY.

2. EL PAIS OF SEPTEMBER 17, FRONT-PAGED AN EFE REPORT FROM BUENOS AIRES. ARTICLE'S BANNER HEADLINE READS "THEY WOULD CREATE A SOUTH  
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ATLANTIC ORGANIZATION." IN ESSENCE, EFE SAID THAT SOURCES "IN A

POSITION TO KNOW" IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE NAVY COMMAND HAD DESCRIBED THE CREATION OF A SOUTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION AS IMMINENT. THE ORGANIZATION WOULD COME IN REACTION TO THE COMMUNIST ADVANCE IN THE AREA AND WOULD INCLUDE A NUMBER OF NAVIES, INCLUDING THE U.S. UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION WAS BELIEVED TO BE LIKELY BECAUSE OF COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO VCNO SHEAR AT THE CLOSE OF THE EIGHTH INTER-AMERICAN NAVAL CONFERENCE IN RIO IN AUGUST.

3. A SOUTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONJECTURE IN URUGUAY SINCE MAY WHEN U.S. ADMIRALS ELLIS AND SAGERHOLM LEFT MONTEVIDEO FOR BUENOS AIRES ON UNITAS PLANNING CONFERENCE. PRESS HERE CARRIED REPORTS THAT BRAZILIAN CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS WAS IN BUENOS AIRES AT THE SAME TIME AND THAT ARGENTINE, BRAZILIAN AND U.S. ADMIRALS WERE MEETING TO FORM A REGIONAL ALLIANCE BECAUSE OF THE THREAT POSED TO THE SOUTH ATLANTIC BY THE SOVIET/CUBAN INCURSION INTO THE AREA. SINCE THEN A NUMBER OF URUGUAYAN POLITICIANS HAVE ASKED US ABOUT SUCH AN ALLIANCE AND, IN FACE OF OUR PROTESTATIONS OF IGNORANCE, MADE CLEAR THEIR BELIEF A NEW REGIONAL ACCORD WAS, INDEED, UNDERWAY. ON THE OTHER HAND, NO URUGUAYAN OFFICIAL, CIVILIAN OR MILITARY, HAS MENTIONED THE SUBJECT TO ANYONE IN THE MISSION.

4. THIS EMBASSY, BY THE WAY, HAS RECEIVED NOTHING REGARDING RESOLUTION OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF REPORT ON THE INTER-AMERICAN NAVAL CONFERENCE IN RIO. IF SUCH INFO IS AVAILABLE, IT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO US.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NAVAL FORCES, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchant0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Reference:** 76 BUENOS AIRES 5999  
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**Subject:** SPECULATION OVER A "SOUTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION"  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MPOL, AR, UY, US, XR  
**To:** STATE DIA  
**Type:** TE  
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